INTRODUCTION

Site description

The Friendsville site (18 GA 23) is situated on the west bank of the Youghiogheny River, on the southwest edge of Friendsville, Garrett County, Maryland which is One of the few large flood-plains along the Youghiogheny ~~is located here and~~ It extends along the west bank for approximately 1.25 km, bordered on the east by the river and on the west by steep hills characteristic of the Allegheny Plateau physiographic province. The plain is about 75 m wide at the south end and expands to 350 m near the north end.

The site is located near the south end of the plain. The area is approximately level with a 0.9 cm/m rise to the south and a 0.25 cm/m rise to the west which, in the vicinity of the site, is interrupted by a low marshy area at the foot of hills bordering the plain on the west.

The soil profile of the floo-plain is composed of an Ap (plow zone) horizon that extends to a depth of approximately 20 cm in the south and 30 cm in the north. It is a friable, slightly acid silt loam, dark brown in color. The B (subsoil) horizon is divided into two components: B21 and B22. The B21 extends to a depth of 45 cm from the surface in the north area of the site and constricts to a depth of 35 cm in the south. It is a friable loam of medium acidity, yellowish brown in color. The B22 extends approximately 30 cm below the B21. It is a fine sandy loam, very friable and has a strong acidity. It is also yellowish in color but is slightly reddish due to a higher concentration of iron. The C (parent material) horizon extends below this to an undetermined depth. (For further information see Soil Survey of Garrett County, ms and Maryland Soils, 1967)

Archeological materials were only recovered from the soils above a deposit of river cobbles extending at least the entire length of the excavated area. This geological feature was encountered in the south area of excavation in the B21 soil horizon, whereas in the north area it was not exposed until deep in the B22 soil horizon. Artifacts (primarily flint chips) rarely occurred 10 cm below the contact area, while they were recovered down to a depth of approximately 20 cm below the contact of the Ap and B21 horizon (50 cm below the surface of the ground) in the north area. The absence of any ceramic material from the lower depths would indicate the presence of an early component, possibly still intact in the north area as it is well below the plow zone. This situation was not explored further except for the recovery of certain possible pre-ceramic features (eg. 8, 10, 11) that were exposed either in testing or trenching.

This area was all plowed at one time or another. Undulations of the A-B contact, a result of plowing, were discernible in most places where the stratigraphy was exposed. When we arrived at the site it was in grass and lawns, the latter containing some gardens, 4 houses (one had been recently moved), a graveled parking lot and a small area of paving. USDA aerial photos and local residents indicate that large sections of the site were cultivated in recent years. (have map of site that includes topography, areas excavated and modern structures)

Excavation

Excavation was initially limited to the future highway right-of-ways on the north and south ends of the site, A meter-grid was laid out over the entire area and a permanent datum established. Both areas were tested with scattered 1 meter squares. The plow zone was removed as a unit, and the B soils were taken down in 10 cm arbitrary levels until sterile soil was reached. Each "floor" was cleaned off and scrutinized for features, post molds and other significant stains in the soil. Notes were written on the condition of each level. All soils removed from the tests were passed through 1/4 in. mesh hardware cloth. All features and other disturbances of possible archeological significance were setioned and recorded with drawings and photographs. Flotation samples were saved from all features; charcoal was collected when present and a few soil-pollen samples were collected in plastic vials. This procedure was carried out for all areas exposed.

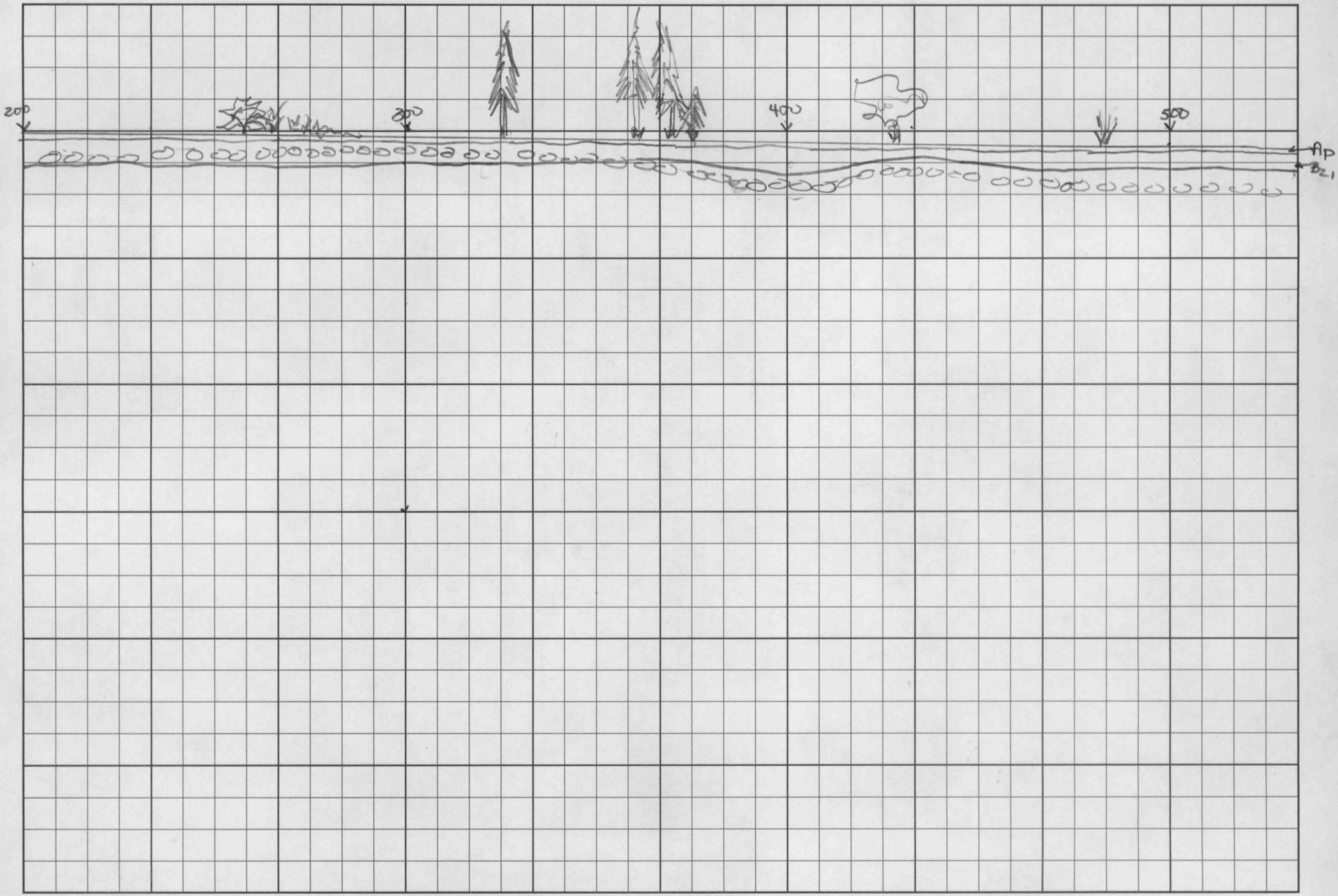
The testing indicated a wide but thin scatter of Archaic through Late Prehistoric artifacts and a lack of discernible cultural stratigraphy. Moreover, the intensively occupied Late Prehistoric village known from surface collections and the Carnegie Museum's test excavations in 1950 (Mayer-Oakes) was located in the area of private lawns between the two highway right-of-ways. It was decided at this time to strip off the plow zone with a road grader, the assumption being that, since the plow zone was disturbed, it was of little use except for increasing the sample size, and that more of the undisturbed subsoil could be exposed for features than would be possible by hand digging. Six trenches were cut in either end of the site. The trenches varied in sixe from m by m to by m. The road grader tended to spin its wheels and

churn up the subsoil in places due to the wet soil conditions and, in the south area, abundant river cobbles which project into the plow zone. To minimize damage to the subsoil, the lower part of the plow zone was removed by hand. Procedures varied somewhat but generally the trenches were gridded in 5 meter squares, the remaining plow zone shovel skinned, and the top of the subsoil trowled for a depth of several cm. The material was bagged according to the 5 m squares.

This phase of the excavations was greatly aided by the Maryland Archeological societies, who held their annual field school at the site.

Most of the stains and pits revealed were of dubious cultural origin, and no post mold patterns were found. Efforts were focused along the south edge of the north area where the heaviest concentration of midden occurred. Excavations in this area were initially expanded in 1 m squares by the field school and subsequently the top soil was stripped off by hand over a larger area.

Permission was also obtained from the private landowners to test the central section of the site. Excavation procedures followed those of the earlier testing. A narrow trench, next to the road, was also excavated in this area as an underground power line was going to be laid here during construction of the highway; this excavation unit is referred to as the utility trench.



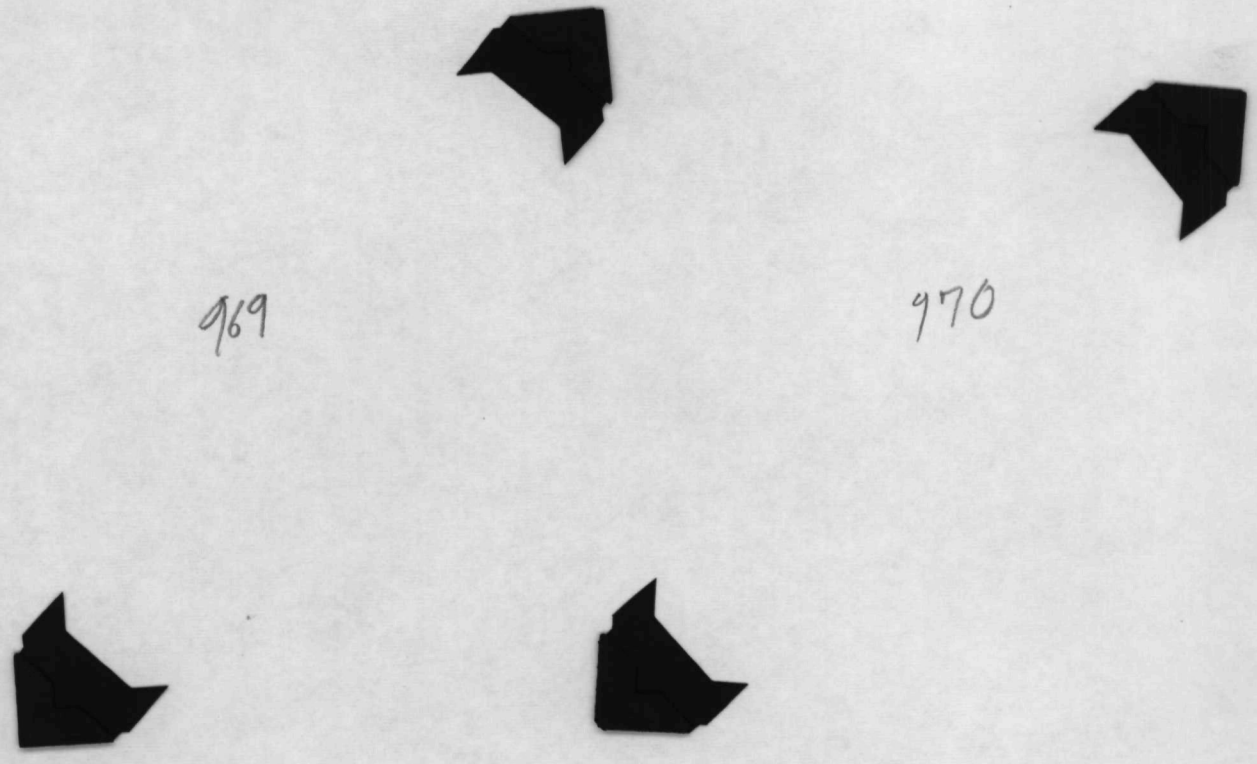


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Fig. 1. Panoramic view of ~~Friendsville~~ site along near bank of the Youghiogheny River; looking generally east. North area of site is at center of view, central village area is between the two houses toward the right, and south area is toward right edge. ~~Another site (CA) is in vicinity of the house at left edge of photo.~~ National Freeway construction visible in mountains at left and in center. Photograph taken 15 Jul 72 after archeological excavations were backfilled, and after trees and former Methodist parsonage had been removed from right-of-way.

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Fig. 2. Marsh in abandoned river channel between Friendsville site and abrupt rise to uplands west of the site.

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Fig. ———. Excavation of initial 1-meter test squares in former front yard of the Olien Friend house. Looking east.

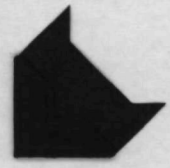

Fig. ——. Clearing off top of subsoil in Trench 1, south area of site. Looking east.

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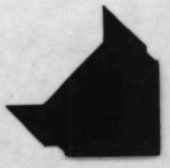

Fig. ———. Volunteers clearing top of subsoil, Memorial Day weekend. Looking northeast. in trench 4 during